

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 280926Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9166

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5883

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PINS ET

SUBJ: TENNECO FIVE

REF: A) ADDIS 5872 B) ADDIS 5870

FOLLOWING SUMMARIES CURRENT INFORMATION AND ACTIONS RELATING
THIS SUBJECT:

1. SHEIKH. HE WAS NOT RPT NOT AT RENDEZVOUS (REFTELS). HE
REAPPEARED IN ASMARA BRIEFLY FOLLOWING EVENTS DESCRIBED SECOND
REFTEL. HE THEN WENT TO GHINDA. COL YASUWORK TRYING TO CON-
TACT HIM THERE TO SEEK DETERMINE WHAT WENT WRONG AND WHETHER
HIS (SHEIKH'S) EFFORT STILL ALIVE. UNLESS AND UNTIL FURTHER
EVIDENCE SUGGESTS OTHERWISE, WE STILL INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE
AND ATTACH VALUE TO SHEKH'S BONA FIDES.

2. GUIDES: GUIDES ON CHOPPER REPORTEDLY ONLY ONES KNOWLEDGE-
ABLE OF RENDEVOUS COORDINATES. THEY REAPPEARED IN ASMARA
FOLLOWING EVENTS DESCRIBED FIST REFTEL, WERE PICKED UP BY IEG
AND THEN RELEASED.

3. MRS, DEBORAH DORTZBACH, THE AMERICAN NURSE, IS SAID BE
FIVE MONTHS PREGNANT AND NOT RPT NOT STRONG.

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4. MILITARY: EMBASSY SENT WORD TO SECOND DIVISION EVENING

MAY 27 OF ITS CONCERN OVER SAFETY MRS. DORTZBACH AND HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT 6TH BRIGADE ONLY INSTRUCTED "REMAIN IN CONTACT" FOR SURVEILLANCE. COMMENT: ISSUE TEMPORARILY INACTIVE FOLLOWING HER REMOVAL BY CHOPPER. END COMMENT.

5. CANADIANS: WE REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMB REYNOLDS.

6. PRESS: EMBASSY INTENDS, IF ASKED, STICK TO FACTUAL STATEMENT OF INCIDENT DESCRIBED SECOND REFTEL OF WHICH PRESS BELIEVED ALREADY WELL AWARE. TENNECO WISHES US DO UTMOST MASK LINKAGE OF THIS INCIDENT TO TENNECO FIVE EXTRACTION EFFORT PER FIRST REFTEL. WE CONCUR AND, IF ASKED, INTEND TO SAY THAT LINKAGE REMAINS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AT THIS TIME.

7. RADIO: WE PREPARING (SEPTTEL) RELEASE WHICH WE WOULD URGE VOA TO USE (AND WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE ALSO FOR IEG RADIO USE). RELEASE WILL BE IN LINE CONTENTS PARA 6 ABOVE. CANADIANS MAY CONTINUE URGE USG/GOC PRESSURE ON IEG TO BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IEG PREPARED NEGOTIATE WITH ELF RELEASE OF TENNECO FIVE AND THAT NAMED OFFICIAL ITS NEGOTIATION. WE THINK THIS SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR PRESENT. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SHEKIKH'S INITIATIVE STILL ALIVE AND TO SEE WHAT MAY COME TO US IN KHARTOUM TOMORROW. TENNECO'S MR. WILSON HAS SOUGHT OUR VIEWS ON VALUE OF A STRONG CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT ON VOA REGRADING ELF KIDNAPPING OF NURSES AND CONTINUED DETENTION OF TENNECO FIVE. WE FEAR THIS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND HE IS GOING ALONG FOR PRESENT WITH US IN LETTING FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

8. THEORIES: DEPARTMENT WILL BE AWARE THAT IT STILL UNCLEAR (A) WHETHER MEN WHO PUT NURSE ON CHOPPER BELONG TO SAME GROUP AS TENNECO FIVE CAPTOR-BAND, OR WHETHER THEY PERHAPS ELF/PLF, MORGHANI'S MEN, ETC.; (B) WHETHER TENNECO FIVE CAPTORS FELT NEED MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CAPTIVES OR THEMSELVES (CHOLERA REPORTED IN AREA; (C) WHETHER ABDUCTIONS AT GHINDA AND RESULTING TRAGEDY RESULT OF ORDERS FROM GIVEN ELF BAND SIMPLY TO PROCURE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH CARRIED OUT WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC BRUTALITY AND STUPIDITY. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING HOW BEST GET WORD "IN" THAT TENNECO PREPARED PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES.

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